

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2009

7:15 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Jane Hobdy
Chandra Walker Holloway
Wilma K. Holmes
Resa Levy
Jaclyn R. Lichter
Manar S. Morales
Larniece McKoy Moore
Tedi S. Osias
Reggie L. Oldak
Sanjay Rai

STAFF

Ruby V. Marcelo
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Ivonne C. Lindley
Jocelyn Samuels

GUESTS

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director
for Congresswoman Edwards

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....

President Oldak

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Oldak. She recognized Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director for Congresswoman Donna Edwards, who was in attendance. Two changes were noted to the agenda. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osias and seconded by Commissioner Aridi Afas, the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas and seconded by Commissioner Osias, the Minutes of the May 27, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTPresident Oldak

A. Commission Appointments

County Executive Leggett appointed Commissioners Aridi Afas, Atterbeary, Lichter, and Morales to each serve a second three-year term on the CFW.

In addition, Leticia Mederos was appointed to fill the seat being vacated by outgoing Commissioner Osias, whose term expires June 30. Ms. Mederos is the Legislative Director for U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Council confirmation of all the appointments is scheduled for June 30 and the new commissioner will be invited to attend the CFW's July 22 meeting.

B. Council HHS Committee Membership

With the recent election of Nancy Navarro to the County Council District 4 seat, the County Council's Health and Human Services Committee membership includes Councilmembers George Leventhal, Duchy Trachtenberg, and Councilmember Navarro. The Health and Human Services Committee has jurisdiction over CFW's budget review.

C. Summer Executive Committee Meetings

The CFW Executive Committee will meet on July 8, 2009 and on August 19, 2009.

D. Planning Meeting

The CFW Annual Planning Meeting is typically held in August; however, the Executive Committee recommended that this year's meeting take place on July 22, 2009. There were no objections from the commissioners. The planning meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

E. Healthy Teen Dating Relationships Conference

Judge Marielsa Bernard is sponsoring a Healthy Teen Dating Relationships Conference on October 27, 2009. CFW took a poll of the commissioners by way of e-mail on whether to co-sponsor the event and participate in the conference planning. The e-mail vote was unanimous in support of CFW co-sponsorship of the conference. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo and Commissioner Levy attended the first planning meeting. (Commissioner Levy serves on the planning group because of her representation with the Family Justice Center.) Upon the motion made by Commissioner Levy and seconded by Commissioner Morales, the e-mail poll was ratified unanimously.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Hospital at Montgomery College

Commissioner Rai has been appointed interim Provost of Montgomery College's Germantown Campus.

The Maryland Health Care Commission has agreed to review Washington Adventist's application at the same time as it considers Holy Cross' application for a Certificate of Need. At the May 27, 2009 CFW meeting, a small ad hoc committee was formed to draft a letter to the college president regarding nursing students obtaining complete and unrestricted education and training. A letter was drafted, but given the Maryland Healthcare Commission's recent decision, the matter has now moved to the state level, so the letter was no longer appropriate and was not sent.

B. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)

The CWI held a meeting on June 23 inviting representatives of 17 member organizations to speak about their organizations. President Oldak represented the CFW and spoke about its mission and current activities. Commissioner Lichter, representing her endorsing organization, Service Employees International Union, was also there. Other representatives included National Women's Law Center, Older Women's League, Feminist Majority, League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women and Wider Opportunities for Women.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Straddling Two Worlds

On June 17, 2009, Judge Marielsa Bernard held a meeting to discuss the issue of Latina teens and unplanned pregnancies. A number of possible initiatives were discussed. Commissioner Levy moved that CFW continue to be involved in this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baldwin and unanimously approved.

B. NACW National Conference

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather introduced Tsitsi Solani, the new part-time employee for the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW). Ms. Solani's work schedule is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Thursday, and Friday.

The NACW annual conference was cancelled this year due to the economy. NACW's board of directors met at CFW in April and asked if CFW would sponsor the 2010 conference in Montgomery County.

Ms. Vaughan-Prather explained that hosting the 2010 NACW conference could have very positive benefits for CFW, NACW, and all of the member commissions for women, nationally. A good deal of work would be involved and commissioners would need to fully support the idea and be actively involved in the conference planning if the CFW were to undertake this endeavor. In addition, with CFW's own limited resources, the CFW would have to limit other projects for the year while planning the conference. It might be possible to combine the MAP and the PAL committees by making advocacy of the implementation of the MAP Agenda the priority focus of the PAL Committee.

Copies of the 2008 NACW Conference agenda were distributed to commissioners for their information. The issue will be discussed and decided on at the CFW's July 22 Planning Meeting.

C. MCPS Keys to Success

MCPS has adopted a 7 Keys to Success strategy for ensuring that students graduate from public school ready for college. Interest was expressed by the commissioners that the needs of female students are included fairly in these strategies.

D. Reproductive Health Care Work Group

County Councilmember Trachtenberg established a small group that had been discussing reproductive health care issues and access to such services. CFW has been invited to have a role in this workgroup being chaired by Dr. Susan F. Wood. (Dr. Wood was the keynote speaker at CFW's 2006 Women's Legislative Briefing). Commissioner Osias moved that CFW accept the invitation to send representation to this group. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aridi Afas and unanimously approved. Commissioners Baldwin and President Oldak agreed to serve as CFW's representatives on the workgroup.

E. National Organization for Women (NOW) President

Terry O'Neill, the chief of staff to Councilwoman Trachtenberg, was recently elected as the national NOW President. CFW sent a letter of congratulations.

F. National Council of Negro Women – Montgomery County Section

The Montgomery County Section of NCNW asked CFW to co-sponsor the chapter's 40th Anniversary event, taking place on October 24, 2009. Commissioner Lichter moved that CFW co-sponsor the event; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Osias and unanimously passed.

G. Local Businesswoman

Staff recently read in the Business Gazette that Lisa Kazor, President and CEO of Savantage Solutions in Rockville, Maryland recently received three very prestigious awards. A letter of congratulations will be sent to Ms. Kazor.

V. **STAFF REPORT**Vaughan-Prather

A. Girls Computer Camp

The Girls Computer Camps are underway! The Rockville Computer Programming Camp and the Takoma Park GURL Power Web Design Camps started on June 22; the Germantown GURL Power Camp begins on July 6. CFW is paying for 14 scholarships this year.

B. Annual Report

Staff will soon begin writing the FY09 Annual Report. Commissioners are reminded to submit any speaking engagements that they participated in during the Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009).

C. New Counseling Center Brochure

Copies of the new Counseling Center brochure were distributed to commissioners.

D. Commissioner Reimbursements (End of Year)Rodgers

In May, commissioners were given reimbursement forms that included the CFW meetings from February through April. Since the fiscal year ends with this June meeting, staff decided to hold off processing payments. Commissioners were given a second form for the May and June meetings, and staff will process all 5 months at the same time.

VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Lichter

(1) Family Child Care Workers Unionization - Two years ago, the CFW supported legislation to permit family child care providers to organize. The legislation did not pass; however the Governor issued an Executive Order to enable the organizing. The Union has secured federal stimulus funds to increase the rate of pay for providers without increasing the parental co-pay. In addition, family child care workers will have a seat at the table at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) level for training and accreditation.

- (2) EITC Eligibility Notification – Delegate Heather Mizeur may introduce legislation to require employers to inform employees of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and providing workers with the forms.
- (3) PAL Alert Survey – The response was very positive with most respondents indicating that they had followed through with taking action on legislative issues. Staff will arrange for a process that will allow persons who register online for the Women’s Legislative Briefing to sign up to receive the PAL alerts.
- (4) 2010 Women’s Legislative Briefing - Thanks to Commissioner Samuels, CFW will have Lilly Ledbetter as the keynote speaker at the January 31, 2010 WLB.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery (IWin)Baldwin

The IWin Committee met earlier to discuss possible steps for the 2009-10 year. Work continues on the Spanish translation of the new divorce guidebook.

C. Mothers and PovertyOsias

The *Mothers and Poverty: Agenda for Action* report was successfully launched on June 10, 2009. The report has received remarkable media covering including the *Gazette*, *Washington Post*, *Elect Women Magazine*, *Daily Record*, and *USA Today*. The County Executive was briefed in early June and the briefing of the County Council’s Health and Human Services Committee will be July 2, 2009. Commissioners Osias, Lichter, Aridi Afas, Levy, and Holmes are planning to attend the HHS briefing.

On June 19, 2009, Commissioner Osias presented the MAP report at the Montgomery College Women’s Studies Summer Colloquium.

Commissioner Osias’ term on the CFW ends with this meeting; however, she expressed her hope that the CFW would continue its leadership on the issue of mothers and poverty.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Family Justice CenterLevy

The Foundation that supports the Family Justice Center held a “vision retreat” to plan the year ahead. An emergency relief fund has been established to provide “petty cash” for individuals who arrive at the Center with no money. The fund would cover small necessities like transportation or a meal. There is also an initiative to recruit attorneys who will provide pro bono work. The Foundation is also planning a Gala in May 2010. Catherine Leggett will chair the planning committee for this event.

- B. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)Lichter

The Fall Conference will be held on October 17, 2009 at the new MCEA Building, 12 Taft Court in Rockville. MLAW's Executive Board is planning to be more pro active in outreach. There are plans to have a panel of staffers and lobbyists to present a panel on lobbying.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Maryland CFW is hosting a Women's Economic Empowerment Conference on December 5, 2009 at Prince George's Community College in Largo, MD.

IX. ELECTION OF CFW PRESENT

President Oldak announced that Commissioners Lichter and Aridi Afas submitted intent to run for the office of CFW President for the next year. Because of an increased work load, Ms. Aridi Afas officially withdrew her candidacy from consideration. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Commissioner Levy moved that Ms. Lichter be elected as CFW President for 2009-2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aridi Afas and Jaclyn Lichter was elected unanimously.

X. FAREWELL TO COMMISSIONER OSIAS

A Certificate of Appreciation from County Executive Leggett was presented to Commissioner Osias. Outgoing president Reggie Oldak read it aloud:

Tedi S. Osias

In Recognition and Appreciation of your dedicated service on the Commission for Women (July 2003 to June 2009), serving on the Policy and Legislation Committee (2003-2006 and chairing that Committee 2005-06); the Status of Women in Montgomery Committee (2005-2007); chairing the Mothers and Poverty Committee 2007-2009 and serving as Second Vice President 2005-2006.

XI. PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT

In appreciation for Ms. Oldak's services as CFW President from 2007 to 2009, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather presented, on behalf of commissioners and staff, Ms. Oldak with a small gift. Commissioners and staff commended Ms. Oldak for all her hard work as president for two years and expressed their appreciation of her leadership and the notable accomplishments during her term as president.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**